

western cape scouter



June 2022



contents

Contents.....	2	Upton Shield	24
Sad News	2	1st Northpine Bicycle Relay	26
RC's Reflections	3	Meerkats Rites of Passage	27
Editor's Desk	3	Hike Leader Badge Course	28
Senior Cub Camp	4	4th Claremont Fernwood	32
2nd Somerset West Sleep-over.....	6	Water Awareness Course	33
Gilqua PLTU	7	SiS - What is this?	34
Sea Scout Regatta	8	Cook Badge Course.....	36
Beaver Rose Trophy	9	WCape Rovers at Pop Bolton	38
1st Blaauwberg Cub News.....	12	LDC1 and LDC2	39
Jackson Shield.....	15	Hawequas Polar Bear Swim.....	39
Oarsman Badge Course	16	From the Archives 1985	40
Chantel's Legacy Project.....	17	1st Walmer Rovers at Appleton ...	42
Regional Awards Ceremony	18	Why did we buy Hawequas	43
1st Muizenberg Meerkat Fun.....	20	Springbok Scouts.....	44
City Nature Challenge.....	22	Regional Contact List.....	44
1st Claremont Science Marvels ...	23		

sad news

It is with a heavy heart that we advise of the untimely passing of Angela Hillier, RTC Meerkats. Angela valiantly fought her long battle with illness quietly and strongly in true Scout spirit. She was very active in our Region and aside from her busy role as Regional Coordinator for Meerkats, Angela also served as the SGL of the Durbanville/Kraaifontein Scout Group and was a member of the Regional Adult Training team.

Despite her health challenges Angela took on the role of RTC Meerkats to launch Meerkats in Western Cape just prior to the lockdown challenges. Despite these challenges Angela worked tirelessly to establish Meerkats in 11 Groups across the Region, building a committed and energetic support team and laying the foundation for future growth of Meerkats in many more groups. Angela lived her Scout Laws and Promise to the full.

Our thoughts and condolences are with Stephen her husband, sons Caleb, Joseph and Jonathan, family and fellow scouts at this difficult time. Rest in Peace, Angela

Paddy Milner - Regional Commissioner



regional commissioner's reflections



How exciting to again be able to read up on the exciting adventures and activities enjoyed by so many members of Scouts in the Western Cape.

It is the time of the year to stay warm and dry as our dams fill and rivers get fed. However it brings additional hardship to those less fortunate. That's where our 3rd and 4th scout laws guide us. "A Scout's duty is to be useful and to Help others" and "A scout is a friend to all and Brother/Sister to every other Scout".

Lets use these wintry months to share our Blessings with others. Providing soup to the cold and hungry has been a regular feature of our Region for a number of years. 2nd Plumstead shared 600 litres last year and are going bigger in 2022. Blanket drives, warm clothes and tinned food all make a big difference in peoples lives. What is your Group doing?

Sadly we shared the grief of the Hillier family on the passing of Angela "Raksha" earlier this month. A true scout and loyal member of the Region and her Community. She left a legacy of Meerkat Dens in the Region and inspires the passion to grow this further.

Stay warm, enjoy the read and think about your plans for exciting programmes in the coming Spring and Summer months.

Paddy Milner - Regional Commissioner

editor's desk

Here is a challenge to Troop Scouters! How about encouraging Scouts with an interest in journalism, to write articles for the Western Cape Scouter? One of the requirements for the Journalist (Interest) badge is to "Produce proof that you have contributed regularly to a Scout magazine and that at least 4 of the articles submitted by you have been published". The Western Cape Scouter



is one such magazine! Articles written by Scouts (and Cubs) are always of especial interest.



Once again, many thanks to all those who contributed to the Western Cape Scouter June 2022 edition. If you have any Den, Pack, Troop, Crew, District, Regional, national, international or other news please email your story to me at nigel.forshaw@scouts.org.za. The next closing date is 23 September 2022.

Nigel Forshaw - Editor Western Cape Scouter

senior cub camp



After a two year hiatus due to COVID, the Senior Adventure Cub Camp was held at Hawequas from 08-10 April 2022.

This is an annual camp, usually held at the end of the first term, for all the ten year old cubs in the Western Cape Region where the cubs are taught various survival and scoutcraft skills, thereby completing their Outdoorsman Interest Badge. These activities include

activities such as lighting a fire and cooking a meal for themselves, learning about axe safety, a night time hike as well as a Food Challenge.

It's always great fun and the cubs always make loads of new friends from many different packs.

Anthony van Dijk – SGL 1st Bergvliet



senior cub camp

After much excitement waiting for the weekend, we found ourselves standing with 48 other cubs ready to survive. My favourite activities were:

1. The night hike. What we did was there was a trail left for us and there were poles with a number on the on it and we had to crack a code with those numbers to get points for our group.

2. The Easter egg hunt. I liked this one a lot because there was a chance at winning an Easter egg while also getting points.

3. Eating the food. It was always something to look forward to after a long night in a cold windy tent with no sleep. Breakfast was pancakes and coco pops. Tea was a muffin with a drink. Lunch was burgers. And for dinner there was pasta and meat balls. And for pudding there was ice cream and chocolate sauce.

I had a really fun time! Thank-you

Scott Greenwood - Cub 1st Bergvliet



I enjoyed playing stalk the lantern. I really enjoyed the night walk. I loved the food. It was also fun to sleep in the tent but not with the wind blowing. It was fun to make new friends and learn how to make a survival tent. And Mouse and Anthony were the best.

Chris Kendall - Cub 1st Bergvliet

Ed. Many thanks to Ian Webb and Fraser Hewson for organising the Senior Cub Camp.

2nd somerset west sleep-over

2nd Somerset West Cub Pack were invited to be "sleep-over guinea pigs" at the new Educational Centre at the Helderberg Nature Reserve. Since 2018, Cubs from all over the Western Cape have helped to contribute to the Eco-Bricks in the walls. It's as if part of it belongs to us. The Nature Reserve is our second base for outdoor activities and so it has been so exciting to watch the development of this centre as a sustainable green, off-the-grid building that is open to everyone with an interest in making a difference in our environment. I believe that integrated environmental education is what will enable our communities to become healthier and happier.



We arranged with manager Hayley-May Wittridge, to sleep-over from 17.30 to 09.00 on the next day. Little did we know, we would be testing the off-the-grid capacity of the centre as that was the day Somerset West was without power for 10 hours. The few issues were dealt with by the staff and alternatives offered, which made for an exciting adventure. We were prepared for anything.

Nature conservation officers Sindi and Orepa, prepared an interesting programme and put

the Cubs through their paces with a treasure hunt and a night hike to meet some of the nocturnal animals in the reserve. We did some star and satellite gazing on the deck and were very excited to see the Star link satellite train orbit above us.

After a good night's sleep on the floor (complying with Scouts SA Covid protocols), we enjoyed an outdoor breakfast which was followed by a repeat walk to see the morning creatures – a very different perspective to the evening walk. And then some active games on the lawn while waiting for parents to come and collect the Cubs. The Cubs thoroughly enjoyed the experience as did the parents who accompanied us.



We have given Hayley-May some constructive feed-back for accommodating overnight guests, particularly children. We are looking forward to arranging similar sleepovers this year and perhaps work on our Conservation, Mini SASS or Skies Interest badges.

Carol Mackay - Pack Scouter 2nd Somerset West

gilqua pltu



After nearly three years off being benched the staff of the 29th Gilqua PLTU were finally given the go ahead to commence final preparations for their course that had arguably been years in the making. With this in mind, forty one staff members undertook the journey to Hawequas Scout Adventure Centre in the Western Cape on the 24 March 2022 for the start of an eleven day adventure and training course. On the Saturday we were privileged to welcome 38 scouts and their parents to the facility. All were in good spirits and were eager to begin.

Over the next nine days the scouts and staff would each be contributing in their own way to a programme of leadership, skills training, and so much more. PLTU is arguably an incredibly unique course, not just in the Scouting Movement but also across the board for all Youth Movements. There are very few other examples where so much can not only be learnt, but also realised in such a short space of time.

While we are limited in that we can only offer up scant details, it cannot be stressed enough how beneficial this course is to the scouts that attend. There is a certain wonder in watching over eighty people working in concert towards a common goal for such a long time.



To the scouts that may be interested we suggest that you do the courses in order if you are able. Those being LDC1, LDC2, PLTC, and then PLTU. Please do not be disheartened if you have not attended the above as applications are all weighed on their individual benefit.

29th Gilqua was a roaring success, and this would not have been possible without the staff and the Scouts that attended. We are certainly grateful to all those that gave up so much of their time to achieve the goal. We now put that behind us and begin preparing for the 30th Gilqua PLTU and whether you want to be there as staff or Scout we look forward to having you!



James Stewart - 29th Gilqua PLTU Administration

sea scout regatta



The crisp morning of Sunday, 1 May 2022 saw the first regatta in about a year take place at the Sea Scout Base. Nine Saldanhas entered the event which comprised four pulling races and eight sailing races.

The day started off with a light south-easterly breeze but picked up to a fresh breeze of 15-20

knots later on. As always, there was the fair share of capsizes and one protest that was dismissed. Congratulations to 1st Bergvliet boat 12 for winning the Binnacle. 2nd Plumstead boat 17 came second and third place went to 1st Bergvliet boat 32.

Daniel Skriker - Race Committee

All photos: Rodger February



beaver rose trophy

On a sunny Saturday morning in May, the Two Ocean's District descended upon the Rotary Glencairn campsite for the annual Beaver Rose competition. It is an event where standing patrols from the 9 troops (soon to be 10) in the district compete in an overnight campsite construction competition with bases and surprise challenges. This year we also invited Atlantic seaboard's 9th/16th Cape Town to join us for the first time. Due to the pandemic this was the first version of Beaver Rose since 2019 which meant that this was the first camping competition for many of the junior scouts and a fresh new batch of Patrol Leaders. This year's theme was Origins as we wanted to go back to the roots of scouting for this 57-year-old competition.

21 teams were divided amongst the camping areas and the competition soon burst into a flurry of activity. Campsite gadgets began rising from the ground while patrol members were sent all over to compete in rank-appropriate bases such as semaphore, pioneering, first aid and axe safety. While this was happening the team chefs needed to get their fires or gas ready to begin preparing their 3 course dinner. and then "fetch" their judge from HQ when ready.

With the campfires now out the night bases began with teams strategically moving around to get all of them done. Catapults, Morse code, conservation stoves, Kim's game were among a few of the activities they needed to accomplish.



beaver rose trophy

Bright and early in the morning the campsites came to life and teams fetched judges to present their breakfast meals before preparing for the final campsite inspection. They were judged on their gadgets, hygiene, STAs and gear. They were then asked to take down everything except their tents and wait for a surprise announcement which was an expedition. The last expedition on the competition was over a decade ago, so this was a new experience for everyone. They journeyed to the Glencairn beach and back through the vlei area while completing 7 bases such as building a flagpole, making a plaster cast print, and general knowledge of their surroundings and the movement.



beaver rose trophy

As the final flag was lowered on the competition, the top 3 teams were: 1. 2nd Fish Hoek Kudus, 2. 1st Bergvliet Seagulls, 3. 2nd Bergvliet Stars.

For the cooking trophy which combined the points of their dinner and breakfast, the top 3 teams were: 1. 2nd Hout Bay Petrels, 2. 1st Meadowridge Eagles, 3. 1st Meadowridge Zebras.

Well done to everyone who participated and made this such an enjoyable event. The standard was very high, and we had an amazing turnout.

A big thank you to all the judges who assisted throughout the competition, with a special thanks to:

- The Iron Wood Rover crew for planning and running the event.
- Connor Winter for being our dedicated First Aider and second in command.
- David Bosch for being our trusty scorer.
- Our District Commissioner Conrad Thomas who organised the venue, the judge's catering and provided valuable assistance before and during the competition.

Andrew Klazinga – Beaver Rose 2022 Chief Judge

Ed. Andrew was the winning PL in 2006. Great to see old Scouts running the BR!



1st blaauwberg cub news

Skies Badge

We switched off the lights and had an astronomical journey through the cosmos, learning about the moon, the sun, the solar system and the constellations. Cubs made pinhole planetariums and mini play-doh solar systems. They played with moon sand and drew galaxies in the gravel.



They got to view the sun through welding glasses and each one exclaimed "Whoa the Sun is green".

Close up views of the moon through binoculars was also fun and we saw craters, mare and rilles. It was a blast!



1st blaauwberg cub news

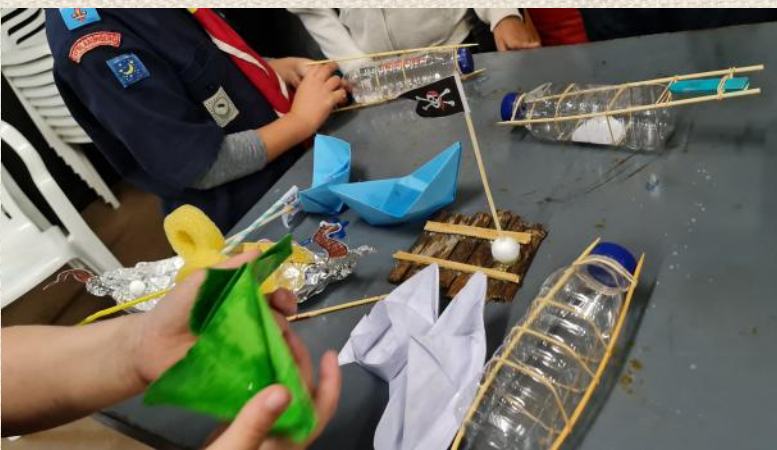
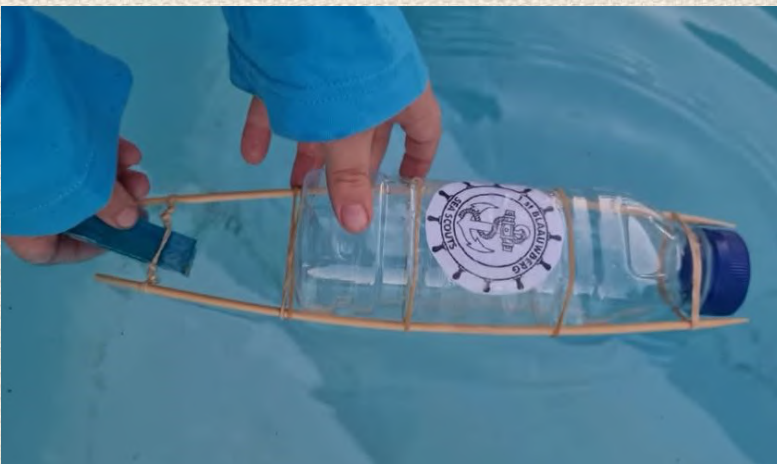
Model Boat Badge



Wowee! We were so impressed with all the cubs creative boats that float for our mini Kontiki Model Boat Badge, each cub had two unique boat creations made at home.

Fun was definitely had as we made paddle boats at our meeting, which some turned into submarines... very inventive. We played wide games under a pink sunset and learned about the origins of the scouting Kontiki traditions.

Some of our cubs even managed to get out on the weekend with their families to see the impressive model boats at Sonstraal Dam.



Entrepreneur Badge

1st Blaauwberg, Table View and Edgemean cubs got together to do a good turn revamping a church garden for the Wood Badge Legacy project and hosting an entrepreneur badge market day for the cubs.

There was a great spirit of community and friendly smiles everywhere.



It was a wonderful opportunity for cubs of the district to do a good turn, donating profits and experience "business" as well. Fun and games, garden work and an entrepreneurial spirit made for a great morning in our community. Thank you 1st Edgemean for a great day of scouting.

1st blaauwberg cubs

Entrepreneurs Badge (continued)



Newlands Forest Hike

1st Blaauwberg and 1st Milnerton Cubs had a beautiful day out hiking together, with perfect weather for the Newlands Forest hike. We foraged for chestnuts, which was a first for many and so much prickly fun, practised the buddy system while hiking, climbed trees, made trail signs along the way and just had the best time enjoying mother

nature and getting to know the cubs and families in our district.

Donna McCarthy - 1st Blaauwberg pack scouter



jackson shield

The Jackson Shield is Helderberg District Cubs annual skills competition.



On a beautiful Saturday morning in June, the cubs of the Helderberg district gathered in Strand for the long missed Jackson Shield. With Covid having ruined two years of us competing, there were over 90 avid cubs ready to compete.

Every pack in our District had representation over every age group, which was really great to see. Cubs from Hermanus, Stellenbosch, Sandvlei Faure, Gordon's Bay, Strand and Somerset West attended. The competition was run in two

rounds, with the first round being broken in to the four age groups and the cubs working on skill based tasks, with the second round being fun and games. After the first round, the score for the first 3 pack's were separated by two points, and the energy was real.



By the end of the morning 1st Gordon's Bay came up as the winner of the Jackson Shield with 2nd Somerset West as a close runner up.



It was really great to even have our newest pack, 1st Sandvlei Faure join us with over 10 cubs.

Simon
Grantham -
Acting DC
Helderberg

oarsman badge course

On the weekend of the 14/15th May 2022, Scouts gathered for the Oarsman (Interest) badge course for the first course to be held at the Sea Scout Base since September last year.

We had 16 scouts and 3 boats on the water for this course. We had great weather for the first weekend and were able to get a lot of the basics done and covered.



On the Saturday night the Scouts did some theory and rope work. On the Sunday we started off with a Sea Scout Base breakfast, followed by



a few long distance races and more training.

The second weekend held on the 28/29 May 2022, was the total opposite of the first weekend. We had some huge downpours of rain and the wind was very cold.

We got very wet just before the start of one of the races on Saturday afternoon, but that's what Scouting is about, getting wet and having fun.

Saturday evening's activities included CPR training run by Jonathan Webb. Thank you Jonathan for your time.

Overall, it was a very good course and it was great being back at the Sea Scout Base.

The Dave Crouser Memorial Award for "Excellence in Scouting" was awarded to Daniel Williams. Well done Daniel.

A big thank you to the instructors, Tahirah, Ethan and Kyle who gave up their time and shared their knowledge.



Robert Schmid - Sea Scout Base Training Officer and Course Leader

chantel's legacy project



I ran my Wood Badge Legacy Project with the assistance of the 1st Edgemean, 1st Table View Pack, 1st Blaauwberg Packs and their Scouters.

The cubs sold goodies to earn their Entrepreneur Badge and a portion of their profits was donated to Holy Trinity Church.

The packs jointly revamped the assigned gardens with donated plants and soil from the community thus giving them the opportunity to earn their Gardening badge as well.

The event was a great success, the start of many events to come.

Chantel Innes - Pack Scouter 1st Edgemean



regional awards ceremony



The Region recently held its annual Awards Ceremony at the 1st Bergvliet Scout Hall. We were honoured to have Alderman Eddie Andrews, Chief Commissioner Gary Pienaar and Regional Commissioner Paddy Milner present - not to mention of course all the recipients of awards and friends.

Assistant Leader Trainer warrants - Angela Hillier (RIP), Craig Burchell-Burger, James Stewart, Judith Bishop and Peter Otzen.

Leader Trainer Warrant - Fr Charles Prince.

Five year award - Alban Petersen, Anna Engelbrecht, Candice Brown,

Colin Pope, Daniel Skriker, Gilzean Sasman, Irma Coton, Joann Lugt, Joshua Hendricks, Kathryn Kenyon, Nigel Harrison, Rob Uphill, Roshaan Solomon-Jhilmeet and Stanley de Jager.

Ten year award - Brendan Dingle, Bruce Meier, Carig Evans, Charmaine de Kock, Gavin Tucker, Judith Bishop, Kevin Dingle, Mark Tolsma and Vanessa Yaxley.

Fifteen year award - Angelo Wingrove, James Stewart, Peter Otzen, Renee Hampshire and Ryan Hultzer.

Twenty year award - Debbie Little, Goosain Mohamed and Gerrie Buckley.

Thirty year award - Peter Coutts

Forty year award - Peter Bosch

Regional Commissioner's Commendation - 2nd Plumstead Group, Judith Bishop, Bruce Armstrong, Darren Erasmus, Devin Morgan, Dilys Jones, Jonathan Webb, Matthew Kingwill and Tahirah Abrahams.

Certificate of Meritorious Conduct - Joshua Hendricks.

Certificate of Merit - Angela Hillier (RIP), Joann Lugt, Peter Otzen, Sharon Ievers and Susan Gammon.

Bar to the Medal of Merit - Aussie Raad and John "Haggis" Potter.



regional awards ceremony

After the awards were presented, Alderman Eddie Andrews who is the local Ward councillor, said a few words of encouragement to all recipients and confessed that he struggles with the Reef Knot. Our Regional Commissioner explained - left over right, right over left and so ended the formal proceedings after which tea and biscuits was served.

Many thanks to 1st Bergvliet for the use of their Scout Hall and Terrance Ievers for taking the photographs.

The Regional Awards Committee (RAC) has served its full term and new blood is being sought for evaluating the 2023 awards while retaining continuity.

Nigel Forshaw - Regional Awards Committee



Peter Bosch



Joshua Hendricks



Joey Hillier on behalf of
Angela Hillier



Joann Lugt



Peter Otzen



Sharon Ievers



Susan Gammon



Aussie Raad



John "Haggis" Potter

1st muizenberg meerkat fun

The 1st Muizenberg Meerkats have been very busy, from doing special handcraft projects to hiking.

Making a paper cup pencil holder took some concentration, to weave the wool carefully and evenly and took some concentration.

Learning about safety and rules of the road rules was fun for everyone. The Meerkats brought their wheels (Ed. bicycles) to the meeting to practice and learn about road safety.

When we hike we make the best of it, come rain, hail or shine. A Scout is always prepared. The Cecilia Forest hiking trail is great this time of year and 6km was an easy feat for the Meerkats. There is nothing more rewarding than playing around in the rocks at streams.

Gardening is loved by every child and what better way than to make your own flower pot and plant a special plant in it for someone? Ask the Meerkats, they will show you how much fun that is! A recycling and community project all in one!

Playing 'The floor is Lava' and having a potato relay race is just a few of the fun ways the Meerkats start their meetings, but better than that is when the Meerkats need to fetch their own equipment to use for a project.

One thing the Meerkats really enjoyed was the City Nature Challenge, they loved looking for bugs and interesting insects.

Marihett Bredenkamp - Den Scouter



1st muizenberg meerkat fun



city nature challenge

The City Nature Challenge is an event where citizen scientists have the opportunity to take part in a world wide bioblitz. This ran from 29 April to 2 May 2022. A bioblitz is a concentrated effort to document, in this case photographically, as many species as possible in a designated area such as the City of Cape Town, the Garden Route or the West Coast. The iNaturalist smartphone app or website was used.

Western Cape Meerkats, Cubs, Scouts, Rovers, Scouters, parents and friends took part and did wonderfully well. Our contribution to the different areas taking part is as below:

Scouts SA Project	Number of Observations	Number of Species	Number of Observations
City of Cape Town	11,811	1,749	437
Garden Route	842	405	36
Overstrand	456	199	31
West Coast	130	79	41
Stellenbosch	94	69	12

Cape Town based Scouts where most of the Western Cape Scouts live, contributed 17.8% of all data which was a staggering and stunning effort.

For the last three years the City of Cape Town has

won the worldwide challenge but in 2022 La Paz, Bolivia came out tops. Their success was attributed to upping their total number of observers.

Most people used the iNaturalist smartphone app to make observations and upload to the iNaturalist website. Some people though, preferred to use traditional cameras and they uploaded their photographs through the iNaturalist website upload facility.

Any uniformed member who made 10 or more observations may wear the City Nature Challenge 2022 event badge on their uniform.

Congratulations to Devon Bowen for making the most adult observations and to Kaylee and Luke Fittock (wildmouse3) for the most Scout observations.

Nigel Forshaw - RTC Scout Programme



Rank	User	Observations	Species
1	twoceansdevon	1,148	342
2	wildmouse3	323	96
3	sammontignies78	306	117
4	firstclaremont	290	62
5	wilhelm5	219	108
6	nigelforshaw	200	108
7	montigniesc	188	81
8	jarred_vaughan	187	89
9	jonathanwebb	167	71
10	iwebb	138	85

1st claremont science marvels

The Meerkat programme continually gives us opportunities for growth and fun. Working towards the Scientist Badge, our Meerkats learnt about static electricity, acids and bases, and wrote secret messages. Most of all, they combined secret ingredients in rockets and launched them into "space". Not all of them took off, due to faulty caps, which we all agreed was par for the course. Thank you so much to each of the Scouters for running such excellent bases.

Judith Bishop - Den Scouter 1st Claremont



upton shield

The Upton Shield is a one day hiking competition for junior Scouts with some more challenging activities than others along the way. The start of the competition was at the Hawequas Forest Station and Scouts hiked 7km into the Hawequas Scout Adventure Centre.

Some of the activities were decoding a message, finding north with a watch, orientating a map, whipping, observation, knotting, Kim's game, Scout Promise, treating a broken leg, making a cup of tea, panoramic sketch, soap carving, snake identification, fun with flags, Scout Laws, animal spoor, recognizing Scoutcraft badges, macho swimming in the cold water of the dam, alien plant removal, identifying smells, making a toasted cheese sandwich, constructing a chariot, general knowledge, cooking a soft boiled egg and singing a Patrol song.

While the computer was whirring and results were being punched into it, Scouts had fun in putting their chariots to good use with a chariot race on the Hawequas field.

Congratulations to 1st Claremont for winning the competition. There was a three way tie for second place being 2nd Fish Hoek, 6th Rondebosch and 2nd Bergvliet.

Many thanks to all the judges and Kuba Miszewski for organising permissions with CapeNature

Nigel Forshaw - Chief Judge and RTC Scout Programme



upton shield



1st northpine bicycle relay

The temperature was 9 degrees in Northpine, on Youth Day 16 June 2022. The Scout Hall was abuzz with excited Cubs and Scouts ready for Our Bicycle Relay around Northpine which involved visiting the churches.

Akela briefed the marshals and sent them to their posts while the Cubs and Scouts went over the safety rules. At 10 o'clock they left, led by an ex-scout, Anri Hendrickse who is an avid cyclist.

The first stop was the Catholic church, followed by the New Apostolic, Anglican and Baptist churches. We were met by the Youth Pastors or the Priest and tubes were



handed to them containing a poster advertising scouting and a letter to be read out in church on 18 June 2022.

At the last stop, the Cubs joined in on their scooters, skate boards, rollerblades and bicycles and returned to the Scout Hall as one big group.

Proud parents watched the Cubs and Scouts and cheered them along the way with ex-scouts helping out too. The community was surprised to see the Cubs and Scouts active after a long absence. There were lots of enquiries from the community with a few parents filling in application forms.

Back at the hall we enjoyed hotdogs and cold drinks and the talk was all about when is the next one. After all that fun, we will definitely do it again.

Nicole Jaftha - Pack Scouter 1st Northpine

meerkats rites of passage

The Meerkat programme is two years long. In June, we were able to celebrate all the rites of passage – investitures, badges, and a burrowing up ceremony together. The latter involves the Meerkat saying goodbye to all their friends in the circle then walking through an arch to be greeted by Akela and the Cubs. It is a very happy occasion. I calculated that in ten years time, these newest members of the Scouting Movement will be going for their Springbok Badge!

The following week we ended the term with the now traditional campfire and braai. The Meerkats have got the hang of all the old favourites – Singing in the Rain, Hole in the Ground, Great Green Gobs – and of course Campfire's Burning and Kumbaya. And of course, bags of marshmallows came out and a good time was had.

1st Claremont Meerkats said goodbye to two leaders – Fox and Badger – but has picked up one replacement. We hope to be up to full strength soon.

Judith Bishop - Den Scouter 1st Claremont



hike leader badge course



We had a large group of 29 participants this year. All were keen participants eager to be out and about in the mountains and learn what they could from the course.

Hiking is really good for many reasons. Besides the obvious of getting out and about and the beneficial cardiovascular exercise, a Scout learns a lot about them self, what they the are capable of, what they enjoy, and how to

manage their limits. They also learn how to look after their feet as their primary mode of transport, how to pack efficiently, and how to nourish themselves for stamina. They get to be out and appreciate the fauna and flora and general scenery.

Over the course of a 14.8km day hike on Saturday, 4 June the participants had map reading exercises to navigate their way with some decision making by the participants as to the correct route to take based on their map route, as well as a triangulation exercise to determine location. Along the way various hiking scenarios where presented for the Scouts to deliberate on while hiking so as to present back at the next break.



Because of the large group, logistics for the overnight hike on the second weekend required us splitting into two groups to be able to fit everyone into the Scout Mountain Club Hut on Table Mountain. The weather forecast for group 2's second day was rain so the plan determined was to get each group was to take the same route to the hut and back down with alternate routes for group 2 depending on the weather situation on the day.

hike leader badge course

On a sunny Thursday, 16 June, group 1 did a 8.4km hike from Cecelia Forest car park and up Nursery Ravine. Going up the Ravine, we passed some 1st Pineland Rovers who had spent the night in the hut and then later on a patrol on a Discoverer hike also from 1st Pinelands. It is always good to meet other Scouts out on the mountain. Lunch was had at the top with a view down the ravine to Kirstenbosch and



beyond. From there they hiked round Cleft Peak to the top of Skeleton Gorge and onto Smuts Track. Then they took a left and went along the Aqueducts for a water stop from nature's tap. Carrying on we headed up the Upper Disa River and onto Echo Valley. At the top, before Blinkwater Ravine, we went left towards Blinkwater peak and onto Ark Valley. At the beginning of Ark Valley the party explored a cave and posed for some pictures. From there it was through Ark Valley, down into the



Valley of the Red Gods and onto the Scout Hut. After off-loading, group 1 immediately set about prepping supper and eating before settling into card games before turning in for the night.

The next day, Friday, 17 June was an early rise to have breakfast and clean the hut to be out by 08:00 for a quick 4.7km hike back down. The route down was over Woodhead dam wall and onto the jeep track to the overseers hut. Then

turning right to head down Cecilia ridge. The strong north wind at the top was a sign of the oncoming weather for the day. At the bottom of the ridge we headed towards Cecilia stream waterfall for a group photo and then down back to Cecelia Forest car park.

hike leader badge course

There we said well done and farewell to group 1 and picked up group 2.

Timing on the turnaround was good with group 2 heading up just on 11:00. Group 2 followed the same route but the weather was changing, being cooler and windier than the day before. Because of the icy wind I decided to lunch in the nursery at the top of Nursery Ravine. This was a lovely sheltered spot and many from group 2 had never been there before. After lunch the group headed back to



follow the route group 1 had taken. The weather was turning and a democratic decision was made to head down the Upper Disa river from the Aqueducts to Hely-Hutchinson dam and onto the Scout hut. Once at the hut the clouds were low but the decision was made to dress warm, take snacks and water and head for the cave in Ark Valley. We were now in cloud but the spirits of the group 2 were good and they got to explore the cave, as group 1 had done the day before, and

have their own photo shoot before heading back to the hut to complete a total of 10.7km for the day.



hike leader badge course



After a warm supper the Scouters turned in early while the Scouts played cards and other games. That night the strong winds lashed the rain against the hut as the storm passed through. In the morning the cloud had lifted a bit but the wind was still somewhat strong and rather cold.

After breakfast the group cleaned the hut and we headed down at 09:00 to follow the same route as group 1 the day before as there was no more

rain. Once reaching the last section group 2 spontaneously broke out into circle dance with some trail runners joining in their own circle to one side. The amazing comradely on the mountain is only experienced by getting out there.

A big thank you to Jonathan Webb and David Knight for joining me in staffing the Hike Leader course and ensuring the Scouts had a good hiking experience.



There were many great learning opportunities for both groups and I am confident that each Scout will impart them when they lead their own hikes.

It was really great being out on the mountain with such a capable group of Scouts.

David Bosch - Troop Scouter 1st Muizenberg and Course Leader

4th claremont fernwood

In 2021 we were able to reopen the 4th Claremont Fernwood Scout group after it had been closed for around 20 years. With waiting lists at nearby groups there was clearly a demand for another group and after long negotiations we were able to take back our hall, built by the Scouts in the 1960s, which had been used by the Lions Club until recently.

The plan for opening was to focus on the Cub Pack, and this turned out to be a good approach as we quickly found a lot of interested families, mostly via the neighbourhood WhatsApp groups, including several volunteer Cub leaders. Although



we weren't initially looking for Meerkats, we also found two dads who were keen and soon had plans for a Meerkat Den as well.

The Cub Pack started in October 2021 with a team of five APSs - three new adult members completed IAL (Christine Bell, Dhesen Moodley and Donna Norgarb), and two APSs transferred from 1st Claremont (Barry Staak

and Elton le Roux), with Barry agreeing to become the new Akela. Peter Otzen took on the SGL role and Ian Webb from 1st Claremont assisted the Cub Pack. Meerkats opened around the same time, run by Rian Geldenhuys and Pieter Bloem. Meetings were a lot of fun from the start, with the Cubs, Meerkats and leaders learning as we went along, and the Pack soon had a waiting list.

In February 2022 we had our first Cub camp, which was run at Hawequas by Elton, jointly with 1st Claremont. The partnership with 1st Claremont pack also involved joint planning of meeting programmes, with both packs running the same activities on different evenings.

The next big step for the group is to open the Scout Troop, which we hope to do later this year. For this we need to build a team of leaders to fill the TS and ATS

roles, so please contact peter.otzen@scouts.org.za or ian.webb@scouts.org.za if you are interested in being part of starting the Troop at this exciting new group.



Ian Webb - Scout Group Leader 1st Claremont

water awareness course

On the cold and windy Saturday morning of 18 June 2022, 15 participants arrived at the Sea Scout Base in Lakeside in order to learn more about activities associated with the water awareness certificate. The course struck the perfect balance between Scout and adult participants as discussions about the different perspectives encouraged some good debate and clarification of some of the misconceptions circulating in the movement.

The water awareness certificate course deals with the following essential modules, among others: responsibilities of the water awareness certificate holder, the applicable organisational rules and safe scouting policy, swimming safety, swimming rescue procedures, first aid and protective equipment.

After lovely tea time refreshments prepared by the Sea Scout Base and some practical exercises, the course culminated in the handing over of certificates and a closing flag parade. Well done to the participants that undertook the training and we look forward to seeing some more water activity permit applications soon!

The water awareness course is a critical certificate for those groups partaking in swimming activities and it is a pre-requisite in order to attend the Water activity licence course in January of every year. The water awareness course is presented three times a year and is open to Scouts aged 14½ and up, Rovers and Scouters alike.

Craig Burchell-Burger - Regional Coordinator Water Activities and Course Leader



sis - what is this?

SiS is the acronym for Scouting in Schools. SiS is a unique unit operating in the Western Cape. It is different from the School Scouting system operating in KZN or any other Region.

SiS came to life at the end of 2016. It was a collaboration between the Western Cape Government, the Job Skills Fund and Scouts South Africa. Interns (now known as Yeboneers – Year Beyonders) were invited to join the programme early in 2017 and after a crash course in Scouting, these school graduates were sent off to open up Scouting units in various Primary and High Schools across the Peninsula. This format was however cumbersome and resulted in the Programme Manager – Ahmad Solomon – running all over the Peninsula.

SiS had to adapt to accommodate the Covid years. It was a tough period in the schools and a really tough time for the interns (Yeboneers). We however emerged stronger and more organized than ever before.

In 2022, we developed three clusters, each managed by a mentor. We also only work in primary schools and have written a programme specifically geared for grade 4 – 6 learners. This allowed us to focus on specific geographical areas and ensuring that the Yeboneers were not travelling far distances to their schools. The management structure has also allowed Ahmad time to engage with the Mentors and deal with matters critical to the various stakeholders. We furthermore have standardised programmes in booklet form that allows us to scale from the 24 schools we are currently operating in, to 100 and more in areas like George, Bonnievale and beyond (other Regions) – 100 schools = 6000 yeboscouts.

The programme is neither a formal Cub nor Scout programme but is based on the Scout Promise and SDG themes which change every term. Scouts go Solar has been completed and Safety and Diversity will follow.

Growing our numbers is one of the Strategic Initiatives of Scouts South Africa. The programme currently has an attendance of around 1500 yeboscouts. This is a good base to draw from when recruiting scouts into our troops, either while on the programme or when they exit it at the end of grade 6.



sis - what is this?



Mentor Roshaan Solomon-Jhilmeet, Yeboneers Shirn  April, Nikita Plaatjies, Allinique Carelse and project manager Ahmad Solomon

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We constantly engage with the Western Cape Government and have just returned from a two day workshop in Grabouw where we gained insight into the other programmes active in schools. Our mentors had the opportunity to network with managers and mentors involved in other streams, to

better understand common struggles and how we can strengthen our own setup.

Our Winter Schools programme kicks off on Monday 27 June and will run for four days at the three Clusters hubs. Around 200 yeboscouts as well as 74 Yeboneers will be involved this programme.

Yeboneers together with Scouts SA has greatly benefitted from the programme this year. We wish them well as they proceed to build their CVs and prepare themselves for the future.

Nimmy Abrahams - RTC Scouting in Schools

cook badge course

I can thank Scouts for adding 'Camp cooking' to my life.

I love to camp and try to camp as much as possible. Running the Senior Scout Adventure Dutch Oven base, Fires and Cooking(Scoutcraft) and Cook(Interest) badge courses has made me look at Camp cooking with a new outlook and to try out different things and experiment with foods.

The Cook course went smoothly, and we had a great involvement from all the scouts. The scouts worked well together in their patrols and the staff enjoyed all the meals the patrols cooked.

When a scout asks you "what is a spatula" in an email before the course, and then runs a successful patrol meal at the end of the course, is it not great?

My motto is "When prepared the challenges are minimal".

Terrance Ievers - Cook Course Leader and TS 1st Table View

The Cook Interest Badge course took place at Hawequas from 10-12 June 2022. 29 scouts attended along with 8 staff members. The course included fantastic meals prepared by the scouts from zucchini fritters to cakes all made in Dutch Ovens. The highlight of the course was an 80s themed banquet with some gnarly costumes, tubular music and radical food. A great time was had by scouts and staff alike. The weekend was filled with impromptu dance parties during a banquet, sing alongs after a "plane crash" and many laughs all around. While scouts took the opportunity to learn and grow one scout in particular shined bright and walked home with the sought-after Golden Spoon, an award given to the standout scout in every year of the course. Congratulations to Luhan Steenberg on taking home this accolade. Finally thank you to Terrance Ievers for running this course, the hard-work and dedication that went into this course does not go unnoticed.

Robyn Oaker



cook badge course



wccape rovers at bop bolton



Wow, what a weekend of Rovering. From 18-19 July 2022, Jóhann Harzon and I flew up to take part in Gauteng's Annual Rover Competition, the Pop Bolton. This is a competition that has been running since the 1950s and is steeped in history. It is the premiere Rovering event in Gauteng with most Rover Crews taking part every year. Each year, a different Crew runs the competition and it is up to them to decide the theme and makeup of the competition. This year it was run by the Nautilus Rover Crew and the theme was Carnival.

We spent the Saturday driving to different bases around Johannesburg and attempting challenges such as canoe time trials, charades, memory card games, and a wide game. After each base we were given points and a clue for the location of the next base. The evening activities organized at Delta Park Campsite with games such as Poker where we were able to spend tickets collected throughout the day in order to get more points. Jóhann and I figured out the most economical way of gathering points involved bankrupting the Jelly Bean cup game. It worked out to be the best way for collecting points and we spent 95 tickets which equated to 190 throws for the game.



Applying this strategy, we thought we would win the competition but unfortunately this was not the case. The team with the most points at each base was only allocated 10 points.

Our team (Hecy) being Jóhann, two Rovers from Prophecy Rover Crew (James and Vaughn), our mascot Sebastien and me, were placed 12th overall. This was a decent position considering we started almost two hours late

(apparently we overslept). Congratulations to Aurora 1 for being placed first with 124 points. I would like to thank Jóhann for accompanying me on such a great adventure as well as to our teammates for putting up with our constant moaning about the cold. Also, a huge thank you to all the Gauteng Rovers who made our trip a memorable one. You were so welcoming and this made the competition a lot of fun. We will definitely be back soon (and hopefully win it).

Dylan Ribbans - Chairperson 6th Rondebosch Rover Crew

Ldc1 and Ldc2



The Leadership Development Course 1 (LDC1) and Leadership Development Course 2 (LDC2) recently took place at the 2nd Bergvliet Scout hall where advantage was taken of the huge and convenient Alphen Park. LDC1 attracted 157 Scouts and LDC2 159. Never has there been such a large Western Cape course attendance.



The courses cover operating the Patrol System and scouting skills and are designed for 11 and 12 year old Scouts. Many thanks to Matthew Kingwell for running the course, ably assisted by Judy Willemse and others.

Nigel Forshaw - RTC Scout Programme



hawequas polar bear swim

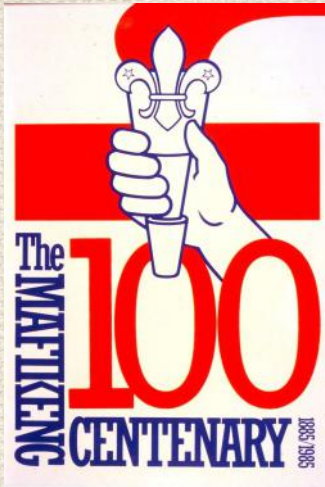
The annual Hawequas Polar Bear swim took place on 24 June 2022. Brave souls endured 14°C in the dam. Hawequas welcomed local folk to have some fun (brrr).

A bonfire was lit on one of the nearby farms on a cold winter's night.



from the archives 1985

Scout 'Flame' run and Mafikeng Centenary 1985



In 1885 the village of Mafeking was laid out near to the 'Place of Stones' (Mafikeng) and to mark the occasion, a hundred years later, the Town Council and citizens of Mafikeng celebrated the Centenary with a week-long programme of events. In view of the strong association of Mafikeng with Scouting, the official organiser of the Centenary invited the Boy Scouts of South Africa to participate in the celebrations.

Together with the British Scout Association, Safleisure the owners of the ship 'Astor', and the Boy Scouts of South Africa, a Flame representing the spirit of Scouting friendship was carried by Scout runners from London, via Charterhouse to Southampton from whence it was conveyed by ship to Cape

Town. From Cape Town runners carried it by road via Bloemfontein, Welkom, Johannesburg, and Pretoria to arrive at Mafikeng on Saturday 16 March.

After kindling the 'Friendship Flame' at Baden-Powell House in London, a relay team of nine young Venture Scouts left for Charterhouse School. Here the Flame was received by the boys of the school Scout Troop, where Baden-Powell spent his school days. On their own initiative, the Charterhouse Scouts composed and presented 'A Scroll of Greetings to the Boy Scouts of South Africa' to the runners to carry with the Flame. The Flame then continued on to Southampton where it was



taken on board the liner M.S. 'Astor' but owing to the hazard of fire on board the ship, the Flame was transferred from the Torch to a small hurricane lantern and placed on the Bridge of the ship. Both the Torch and Lantern are on display at the Gilwood Scout Museum.

After its arrival in Cape Town, a Reception Ceremony was held on board the 'Astor' and the 'Flame of Friendship' was

handed to the Chief Scout, Mr Colin Inglis. At the end of the ceremony, the Flame was handed to Scout runners, who were preceded through the streets of Cape Town by the Scout Band, and carried it to a popular shopping complex. Here it was displayed to the public together with an exhibition of Scouting in action. The Flame remained on display until it was run to St George's Cathedral for the Dedication Service. After the service the Mayor of Cape Town handed the Flame to the first of the Scout runners on the steps of the Cathedral to start its 20-day, 2,000 km journey across Southern Africa, borne by hundreds of Scouts, to Mafikeng.

from the archives 1985



Runners were provided by Cape Western to Beaufort West; by Cape Midlands, Cape Border, and Transkei to Bloemfontein; Central via Welkom to the Transvaal Area border; Transvaal via Gilwell, Florida; then Northern Transvaal until the last stretch to Mafikeng when Scouts from Natal and KwaZulu took over. Each Scout runner, wearing a 'Mafikeng Centenary T-shirt' ran with the Flame for one, two, or a few kilometres before passing it on to the next runner.

A week-long Scout Camporee formed part of the Scouting participation and each Area was invited to send two Patrols to participate in the event. An interesting programme was arranged which besides camp activities included visits to Centenary events.

Foreign Scout Associations were invited to send a 5-person delegation to participate in the Centenary Celebrations and were taken on various sightseeing tours as part of the week-long celebrations.



The climax being the lighting of the permanent Flame on Saturday 16 March 1985 when Scout runners with the torch arrived and in front of the large excited crowd of Scouts and the public handed the Flame to the Secretary-General of the World Scout Bureau, Laszlo Nagy who then mounted a ladder and lit the permanent 'Flame of Friendship' in the monument. The Chief Scout took the salute as more than 700 Scouts and Guides from the Camporee marched past and paraded in the street in front of the black granite monument that houses the permanent Flame.

A detailed account of this event can be found at the Scoutwiki website titled 'Mafeking Centenary 1985'

1st walmer rovers visit appleton

1st Walmer Rovers Crew Council from Eastern Cape South attended the Rover Warrant Course in Cape Town during the month of May.

Below is our logbook entry to record the event.

Morgan Schroder - 1st Walmer Rovers Chairman

Ed. Great to have this sort of interaction with Eastern Cape South

13 - 15 May 2022

Sabrina

Rover Warrant Course



Weekend Highlights

On Friday the 13th (spooooooky) of May, 1st Walmer Rover Crew Council ventured their way from Port Elizabeth all the way to Appleton Campgrounds, Cape Town - to attend a Rover Warrant course!

- The course ran from Saturday, 14 May - Sunday, 15 May.
- Saturday
 - We got familiar with our patrols, by the time sessions started we already had new friends!
 - Majority of the day were theory sessions, with a few practical examples of what we discussed in the sessions.
 - We got to make our own Woggle!
 - It's not a Rover adventure if we don't end up geocaching now is it?
 - We learnt that not all Rovers have the scouting skill of Mapping.. or driving..
- Sunday
 - We spent the morning, adventuring around Cape Town for an Amazing Race!
 - Followed on by a potjie which we sadly could not finish as we had to venture our way back to George, to get a good night's rest.

Overall, we learnt a lot about ourselves, our crew, where we can improve, where we are doing well, and what more we can do as a crew! Definitely an adventure for the books.

Rovers Present: Morgan, Tamlyn, Sabrina and Robert

a wild Roberto in his slumber

1st walmer rover crew logbook 2022



why did we buy hawequas

I often get asked the question - Why did we buy Hawequas? In 1985 I "gave" two years to Scouts SA and one of the projects I had to tackle was to find a place like Hawequas. Cape Western had a campsite at Eerste River called Gilcape. A lot of development had been done at the site, which was very popular with Cubs and Scouts, but the urban fringe was creeping up and soon housing developments were springing up all around Gilcape and with crime also increasing it was time to find a new campsite.



A group of us sat down and drew up a set of criteria which would set us on track to find a new campsite. These were:

- We did not want to have to move again due to urban creep.
- We wanted to be within an hour's drive from Cape Town.
- Preferably be able to get there using public transport – train or bus.
- Be a safe area, with no roads passing through or near a new site.
- The price had to be right.
- There had to be some infrastructure so that we could start using the site straight away.

These conditions were a big ask and we looked at various sites from Elgin to Glencairn to Atlantis but none of these possible sites met all the criteria.



One Saturday while looking through the property section of the Cape Argus in September 1986, there was this tiny photo and an advert for 234 hectares in Du Toits Kloof, close to Wellington. We shot out to Hawequas during the week and Hawequas had it all – The Cape Western Executive approved the purchase of Hawequas

overnight. We then went about selling Gilcape for which we sold for a very good price!

Was it a good purchase? I think so, long may Scouts come and experience the adventure of the Hawequas Scout Adventure Centre.

Kuba Miszewski - Hawequas Manager

springbok scouts

Membership	Traveller	Discoverer	First Class	Springbok
"I have just joined the Troop" Learn about the Scout Promise and Law , and Scouting background.	"I am Learning to be a Scout" Learn what it means to be a Scout, and learn new skills.	"I am Learning to be an APL" Be involved with your Patrol and Troop, sharpen your Scouting Skills.	"I am Learning to be a PL " Become a well-rounded Scout and citizen.	"I am a Leader of Scouts!" Lead your Patrol and Troop on a number of projects that challenge you.

We congratulate our latest Springbok Scouts who are:



Anna Mae Troost
1st Hermanus



Hannah Chaston
2nd Plumstead

Regional Contact List

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